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The New French President

MILLERAND, the aggressive prime minister of France, has had the presidency "wished on" him despite his vigorous objection to taking the office vacated by the ailing Deschanel. His choice of a successor to the premiership is somewhat of a surprise, as Georges Leygues, who has been called to form the cabinet, embodies none of the characteristics revealed by the new president when the latter guided the ship of state.

It has been presumed that Millerand's objection to accepting the presidency is the fact that the presidency of France, save for the social prestige it enjoys, means little in a political way. On the other hand the prime minister, as long as he holds the confidence of the Chamber of Deputies, enjoys greater power than the President of the United States. The reason, therefore, for an active politician scorning the presidency in favor of the premiership is obvious.

France always has been unwilling to concede greater power to the presidency. There always has been the fear of the Man on Horseback. Whether Millerand believes he can break down the political isolation accorded the presidency, and, by nominating for the premiership a man who holds no reputation for being a leader of vigor and force, thereby continue active in French political affairs, is a question. If he does hold to that opinion, precedent is against his carrying out his scheme.

Tough Luck

THE Democratic candidate for President is the victim of maladroitness. For many weeks he obtained columns of newspaper space by his reckless charges of "corruption," "slush funds," "\$15,000,000," and, finally, "\$30,000,000." There was an investigation by a Senate committee (with a Republican majority) and this committee (as was not unexpected) found for the defendant.

How much better it would have been, for Mr. Cox's purpose, had he waited until the last two weeks of October. He then could have made the same charges, using the same high explosives, that he has made, and they would have stuck. By then the Republicans would have had their money, and most of it would have been spent.

As it is, poor managing has resulted in an embarrassment for the national committees of both parties. Neither has sufficient money to support the campaign in the manner to which a national campaign is accustomed. Not only has Mr. Cox's sensational charges of "buying an electorate" fallen woefully flat, because of his ill-advised picking of the moment to make such charges, but they have reacted, to a degree entirely unexpected, against his own party treasury. That, after all, is the tragic feature of the entire fiasco.

The Democratic candidate's barrage was poorly timed, fell short, and was made up largely of duds.

Keep the Game Clean

A GRAND jury has been at work in Chicago, charged with an unpleasant duty to perform. Inquiry during the early days of the sessions developed that there was some foundation for the ugly rumors which had been flying for some time previous to the calling of the jury.

Base ball has been tampered with. Gamblers, of a type and race that contaminate clean sport, threaten to besmirch the greatest game—a game that is all-American, and that numbers more followers than the dozen other sports that attempt feebly to compete for favor.

The very fact that professional gambling has wormed itself into the grand stands of the major league parks, and that betting and pools have become a feature of the pool rooms that house handbooks on horse racing, is more than enough to arouse suspicion.

Now, it seems, that fire has indeed followed the smoke.

It should be mentioned that the club owners have fought valiantly, although perhaps not always intelligently, to keep the sport clean. They above all realize that "thrown games," such as have been more than hinted as having occurred in the 1919 world series, mean the end of major league, organized base ball.

It is to be hoped that the grand jury investigation, even though it finds that base ball for the most part has been square, will at least have the effect of serving notice on the parasites of the sport that they cannot be tolerated and will be suppressed without ruth.

Painting the Church

IN A little fishing village on Cape Ann, Massachusetts, stands an old-fashioned, quaint-looking church. The congregation is a small one sometimes, during the winter months, numbering not over thirty persons. In the summer, however, it is largely augmented by the visitors to the town.

On the particular Sunday in mind, at the close of the sermon, the minister made the announcement:

"The church needs painting badly, on the outside. We haven't the means to have it done by regular painters. I am, therefore, going to call for volunteers to do the work. We will provide the brushes, paint and ladders, and any man who can give an hour, or two, or more of his time on Thursday and Friday next to paint the church, we will be glad to have volunteer."

On the days mentioned the men of the congregation did paint the church. It was not done, probably, as well as professional painters would have done it, but by night it shone clean and bright in its new dress, a tribute to the interest that the men of that little fishing village took in their church.

One couldn't help thinking that if a little of their spirit could be infused into our present-day life, what a delightful thing it would be for all concerned, and how far it would go toward allaying the present unrest.

One of the chief causes of the high cost of living is recognized as under-production. Every one seems to be striving to get the most money they can in return for as little work as possible.

Nor is this true only in industrial life. The serum of get but not give seems to have permeated the entire body politic. In the political, the professional, the business and, even in the social world, the spirit of giving the least possible service for the maximum of reward prevails.

The pity of it!

It is about time that the men and women of the present day awoke to the fact that service is the only way to obtain happiness and contentment. The time has come in our national life when every one must put their shoulder to the wheel, and do their duty, and then a little more. The men who painted that church, some of them, could ill afford to give the time from their regular business. But they did it cheerfully—there was no need of a draft—they volunteered at the call for service.

The next time you are tempted not to do that portion of work that falls to your lot, think of those men in the little fishing village on the Cape, who gave their time without reward, that their church might be beautified and preserved. If you want to experience what real life is, take for your slogan:

"Paint the Church."

Curbing Crime

IT IS admitted that the beneficent effects of prohibition in decreasing crime have been offset in the past year in a great measure by a reckless criminality that has defied police efforts in the big cities and has mocked at the routine repression of banditry.

In Detroit, for instance, despite the work of a splendid police department, banditry has been on the increase, consistently and steadily. The record of captures in proportion to the number of crimes has been woefully small. The success of the criminals has marked the city as "soft pickings" for those of the underworld.

A new force recently has come into existence which bids fair to solve the problem that has confronted the Fourth City for many months. Under legislation additional criminal court judges have been provided, and those appointed have been well qualified. Co-operating with the police, these courts have steadfastly adhered to a decision made upon their ascending the bench, to inflict the maximum penalty upon all convicted of robbery while armed. In a few months more than fifty bandits found guilty of this charge have been sentenced to state's prison for terms ranging from 15 to 30 years each. The effect has been most salutary; the police have been heartened in the work; and the citizenry of Detroit have responded to the faithfulness of their court servants with a remarkable vote of confidence for the five incumbents in recent primaries.

The Old and New Games

ATTENTION may be directed to two manifestations of human nature, consequent on the peace. The first is the rapid re-creation of the alliance and group form of international diplomacy, sometimes called the balance of power. The other is the actual functioning of the League of Nations.

The two conditions are so antagonistic that an examination is fruitful. For instance, the League of Nations is doing what the groups of powers declare, by their actions, it cannot do. Hence, in the face of the proof later to be detailed, a fair assumption is that the League of Nations is doing what the groups do not want it to do.

Lithuania and Poland were ready to tear each other to pieces over the Curzon line; the Curzon line is the boundary proposed by that ambitious statesman to mark the confines of Poland. As Curzon outlined it, it gives the Poles much less than they ask, but it does include in Poland some ground claimed by the Lithuanians. In their counter-offensive against the Soviet forces, the Poles marched into and across this land—which the Lithuanians claim, but which the Poles claim also, and which, under the Versailles Treaty, is Polish.

The Lithuanians and the Poles had more or less agreed on a compromise. Soviet or other propaganda convinced the Lithuanians the Poles were Imperialists and all they marched on they would hold forever, or until kicked off. So the Lithuanians mobilized.

The League of Nations stepped in and proposed a compromise reasonable men could not reject.

Somewhat similarly the Aland Islands form an acute dispute between Finland and Sweden; the arguments were interminable and moved slowly toward hostilities. Here again the League of Nations stepped in cautiously and suggested itself as a mediator. Both sides welcomed it.

The Lithuanian case strengthens the hands of the League for the Aland Islands issue, and each such undertaking successfully concluded increases the prestige of the League which seems to be making its own way, probably as a wilful affront to Senator Lodge.

Here, however, are reasonable men doing the reasonable thing. It is a safe axiom, too often lost sight of, that few boundary lines are worth fighting for until conversation is exhausted. The fight starts when the conversation is interrupted.

Now turn to the other phase of human nature. Here are the "safety first" boys, led by France. Two leagues of nations have come into existence in the Balkans, with sharply divided racial lines and objectives. One is a Latin league, the other is a Slav league. France's league is known casually as the "Danube" league. Its corner stone is an alliance with Hungary. On this foundation stone she desires to place Rumania, between whom and Hungary she is anxious to effect a rapprochement. And on these two rocks she would place Austria, thus forming an Austria-Hungary-Rumania alliance; and this noble edifice she would crown with Greece. This would make a formidable alliance, and is an alliance Italy views misgivingly. She cannot get over her dread of Austria-Hungary.

Why has Italy remained outwardly calm? Where there is one alliance, there are always two. Fate plays into Italy's hands. France makes a trifling agreement with Czecho-Slovakia, but Czecho-Slovakia makes a good solid military treaty with Jugo-Slavia, promising mutual comfort and help against anything Hungary—France's friend—may start. France hears of this with some consternation, but thinks to change opposition to unity and found an even larger structure by uniting the two groups. For this purpose she chooses Rumania. Rumania is to become friends with Hungary. Rumania may as well be friends with Czecho-Slovakia. France suggests it, and adds something about Bulgaria and yielding part of the Dobrudja to make Bulgaria happy.

Rumania says she will be pleased to join the Czechs and Jugo-Slavs, if they will promise her military aid, in time of need, against Bulgaria. The Czechs and Jugo-Slavs refuse. Why? The Slovaks are Slav; the Jugo-Slavs—and the Serbs—are Slav; the Bulgars are Slav. Blood is thicker than ink; and before France can hide her chagrin, Bulgars, Czecho-Slovaks and Jugo-Slavs are united, and the double line-up is complete.

Whither tends the business? That will be unfolded when some member of one group crosses the plans of some member of the other group. France's procedure has been guided by self-interest. Her interest runs through her Danube League to Poland on the one side, and to Belgium on the other. Thus the Germans are surrounded by French vassals.

There are the two pictures. They represent with absolute fidelity the world attitude today; the two groups are to be found in every land, here as elsewhere.

One is constructively idealistic, and the other is destructively selfish.

Which is the way of peace?